21 October 1950 (HOLOTYPE F; ISOTYPES GH, MO, US, WIS). Cornfield, now muddy but recently flooded, Maquigua, 17 km. west of La Union, 13 January 1951, *Fassett 28625* (F, GH). HONDURAS: boggy spot in Crescentia savanna, Choluteca, 31 October to 9 November 1949, Standley 24588 (F.). MEXICO: Acapulco, Guerrero, October 1894 to March 1895, *Palmer 284 (GH)*. In a pond-llano, Gutzalama, Cuyuca District, Guerrero, 25 August 1943, *Hinton 6495* (F, GH). BRAZIL: in shallow water and on margins of Acude Columinjuba, Municipio de Maranguapa, 9 October 1935, *Drouet 2580* (GH). Lagoa Mecejana, Municipio de Fortaleza, 18 July 1935, *Drouet 2143* (GH).

The two collections from El Salvador are extreme, and in appearance exactly simulate *N. prostrata*. They are distinguished from that species by the longer fruit with sometimes as many as 18 seeds (4—8 in *N. prostrata)*, and by the gland at the summit of the petiole. (See Standley & Steyermark, Flora of Guatemala, Fieldiana: Botany 24 pt. 5: 65, 1946.) The aquatic phase of *N. plena* has recently been discussed in relation to its occurrence in Texas (B. L. Turner, Revision of United States species of *Neptunia*, Amer. Midl. Nat. 46: 84, 1951). The one collection of that species from Texas appears to be f. *lumbricoides.—Norman C. Fassett, University of Wisconsin, Madison.*

EDITOR'S NOTE. The above was one of the last manuscripts completed by Dr. Fassett before his untimely death in 1954. Evidently intended to be part of a series, it was originally titled "Studies of aquatic plants in Central America. 2. A deceiving *Neptunia*." It has been submitted by Dr. Hugh H. Iltis in order to make the herbarium name available for use by another botanist now monographing the genus.

A HEXAPLOID LINUM (LINACEAE) FROM EASTERN ETHIOPIA.—In Africa south of the Sahara, *Linum* is scarcely represented. No species, for example, is listed for the Flora of West Tropical Africa and only 2 are recorded from the region of the Flora Zambesiaca (by Robson, 2: 91—99, 1963). During a recent trip in Ethiopia, I was able to collect 1 species listed in the latter flora, *L. holstii* Engler ex Wilczek. Plants were found infrequently in Harar Prov., 7.4 km E of Giggiga *(Lewis 5889*, 24 Aug. 1962) on a short grass plateau at 5000 ft. Immature flower buds were fixed and air mailed to England for storage at -40°C. At the same time, herbarium vouchers were collected and these are deposited at K, US, and MO.

Seven months later, whole buds were squashed in 2% acetic-orcein. Diakinesis in PMCs of 2 plants of *L. holstii* showed $n=27$ with the 27 bivalents illustrating a strong tendency for early terminalization of chiasmata. The average size of chromosomes at diakinesis was 2.85 μ. The species is thus a hexaploid in the $x=9$ series, a series common to the eastern North American species of *Linum*, but then only to the tetraploid level (Osborne & Lewis, Sida 1: 63—68, 1962). The number is unique to the genus and the species is to my knowledge the first ex-

ample of an indigenous hexaploid flax.—*Walter H. Lewis, Missouri Botanical Garden, and Department of Botany, Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri.*

CAYRATIA JAPONICA (VITACEAE) IN SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA: NEW TO THE UNITED STATES.—Among some collections made at the Delta Regional Primate Research Center of Tulane University by Michael Kent Rylander and sent to me for determination was a strange-looking plant obviously in the Vitaceae, with pedately compound leaves, unlike any North American species known to me. The tetramerous flowers in short, wide, long-peduncled cymes indicated *Cissus*, and the plant was first tentatively identified as *C. japonica* (Thunb.) Willd. (included in Bailey's *The Standard Cyclopedia of Horticulture*, but not in his *Manual of Cultivated Plants)*, then more positively as *Cayratia japonica* (Thunb.) Gagnepain, Notulae Systematicae 1: 349, 1911 (more fully treated by that author, with description and figures of flower details, in Lecomte's *Flore Générale de l'Indo-Chine* 1: 983—984 and Pl. XXVI, 1912). There are illustrations of the plant in Makino's *An Illustrated Flora of Japan* (enlarged edition), p. 341, 1956 (as *Cissus)*, and Steward's *Manual of Vascular Plants of the Lower Yangtze Valley, China*, p. 233 (text account, p. 240), 1958. Both show rather obtuse terminal leaflets. In the specimen these are acute, and Gagnepain's description refers to them as acuminate. The species is a herbaceous weed, widely distributed in southeastern Asia from Japan to Java and India. The first United States collection, so far as known, is *Rylander 167*, 8 July 1963, from "damp, deciduous river bottoms; near ground," Primate Research Center, Covington, St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana (SMU). It possibly represents an escape from cultivation.—*Lloyd H. Shinners.*

THREE NEW VARIETAL NAMES IN SPHAERALCEA (MALVACEAE).—In Thomas H. Kearney's "The North American species of *Sphaeralcea* subgenus *Eusphaeralcea*" (Univ. Calif. Publ. Bot. 19: 1—128, 1935), the author follows the American Code usage of undesignated trinomials which are subspecies; he so refers to them repeatedly in the text. Later, in a joint paper with Robert H. Peebles publishing new names for Arizona plants, he included a paragraph replacing the subspecies with new combinations as varieties (Journ. Washington Acad. Sci. 29: 486, 1939). In three cases the epithet used for a variety is not the earliest available in that rank. The correct combinations are supplied herewith.

S. EMORYI var. **californica** (Parish) Shinners, comb. nov. *S. Fendleri* var. *californica* Parish, Zoe 5: 71—72. 1900. *S. Emoryi* ssp. *variabilis* (Cockerell) Kearney, Univ. Calif. Publ. Bot. 19: 39. 1935. *S. Emoryi* var. *variabilis* (Cockerell) Kearney, Journ. Washington Acad. Sci. 29: 486. 1939.

S. ANGUSTIFOLIA var. **oblongifolia** (Gray) Shinners, comb. nov. *S.*